

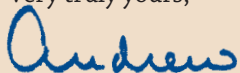
Dear Neighbor:

While many critical issues face our state today—jobs and the economy, criminal justice reforms, environmental concerns and transportation challenges, to name a few—I’ve chosen to focus this newsletter on what’s happening in Hartford that impacts on the educational opportunities here in Stamford. Whether you have school-age children or are just concerned about the continued vibrancy of our community, developments in education impact all of us. And while we look forward to the future of our schools and their academic achievements, it’s also important to realize how much progress we have made in the last few years.

As your state Senator, and as a member of the Education Committee, I have continually sought to improve the educational opportunities for our children and the academic success of our schools. I have also worked to enhance the amount of education funding the 27th District receives so that we can provide the best educational value to our taxpayers. The average educational increases for Stamford over the last several years not only surpass most other comparable municipalities, but almost double the state average as a whole.

The reverse side of this legislative update illustrates the progress that we have made by working together. After you have reviewed it, if you have any questions, or if you need assistance on any other matter of concern, please do not hesitate to contact my office in Hartford.

Very truly yours,



Andrew McDonald

State Senator, 27th District



FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR

**ANDREW
McDONALD**

Representing Stamford and Darien

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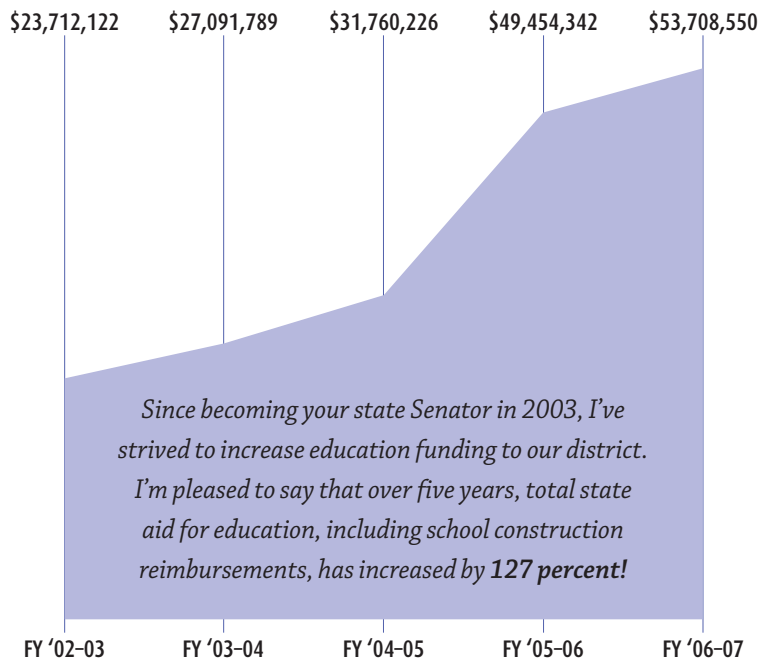
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STATE SENATOR ANDREW McDONALD'S EDUCATION FUNDING REPORT

As a member of the Education Committee, I have worked hard to help draft and pass important legislation that has meaningful benefits to the education of our students, and the financial health of our school districts. Through bipartisan efforts, we have been able to reform several state laws so that they better reflect a community's need for state assistance in education funding and school construction reimbursements. Whether it is fighting for Early Reading Success grants, greater resources for school facilities or better support for teachers, I am strongly advocating on behalf of the educational systems in our district.



For years Stamford did not receive its fair share of education funding from the state. While we still have work to do, we certainly have begun to reverse that trend. As you can see in the chart below, Stamford's share of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) dollars from the state is increasing much faster than other large cities in the state. Over the last six years we have implemented important legislative changes in this critical formula which have raised Stamford's funding by 42 percent. Perhaps most importantly, we have almost doubled the state's overall average increase.

